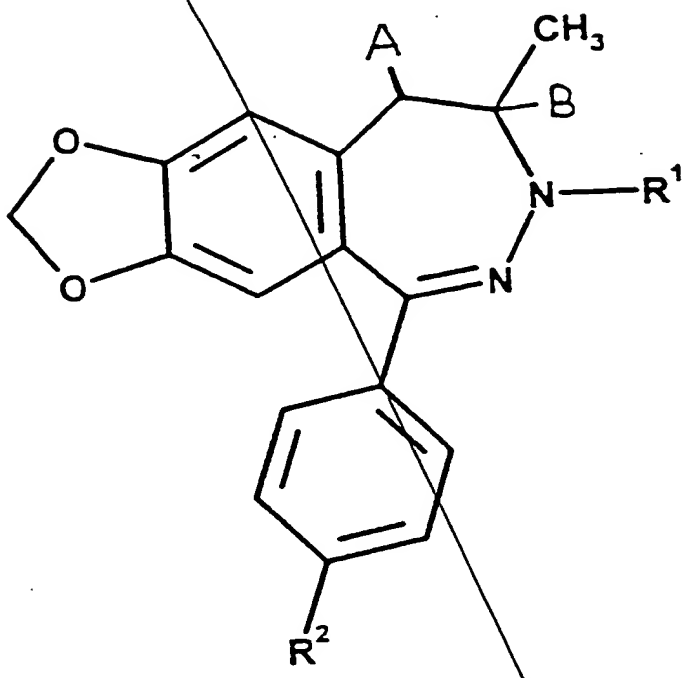
Claims:

1. A 1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I



I

wherein

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein

R represents a halo atom, a pyridyl group or a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein

R^3 and R^4 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, an amino group, a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-4} alkyl group(s), a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is

B' Cont

optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising 1 to 3 nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by a phenyl group which latter is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s), wherein the substituent consists of a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^3 and R^4 form, with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally with a further nitrogen atom or an oxygen atom, a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members, being optionally substituted by a phenyl group that is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents, wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

n has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2, or

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9, and in this case

R^1 represents a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

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R^7 and R^8 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^7 and R^8 form together with the adjacent nitrogen atom an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group which latter is optionally substituted, or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, a phenyl(C_{1-4} alkyl) group or a phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, wherein in case of the substituents listed the phenyl or phenoxy group is

optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a halo atom or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, and, in case of the phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, the alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 hydroxy group(s),

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group, an amino group or a (C_{1-4} alkanoyl)amino group,

and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

B' Cont

2. A 1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative as claimed in Claim 1, wherein

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein

R represents a chloro atom, a pyridyl group or a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein

R^3 and R^4 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a cyclopropyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, an amino group, a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or two methyl group(s) or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising 1 to 3 nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom

as the heteroatom, and the heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by a phenyl group which latter is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 methoxy groups, or

R^3 and R^4 form, with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally with a further nitrogen atom or an oxygen atom, a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members, being optionally substituted by a phenyl group that is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 methoxy groups, n has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group or an amino group, and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

3. A 1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h/2,3/benzodiazepine derivative as claimed in Claim 2, wherein

R^3 and R^4 represent, independently, a hydrogen atom, a cyclopropyl group, a methoxy group, an amino group, a dimethylaminophenyl group or a C_{1-2} alkyl group which latter is substituted by a phenyl, morpholino or piperazinyl group, wherein the piperazinyl group is substituted by a methoxyphenyl group, or

R^3 and R^4 form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally a further nitrogen atom or oxygen atom, an imidazolyl, morpholino or piperazinyl group, wherein

the piperazinyl group is substituted by a methoxyphenyl group,
n has a value of 0 or 1,
m has a value of 0 or 1,
R^2 stands for a nitro group or an amino group,
A represents a hydrogen atom,
B means a hydrogen atom,
and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

4. A 1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative as claimed in Claim 3, wherein
R^3 represents a hydrogen atom,
R^4 stands for a cyclopropyl group, a methoxy group or an amino group,
n has a value of 0,
m has a value of 0,
R^2 means an amino group,
A represents a hydrogen atom,
B means a hydrogen atom,
and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

5. A 8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/-benzodiazepine derivative as claimed in Claim 1, wherein in formula I
A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9,
R^1 represents a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein
R^6 stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

R^7 and R^8 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a morpholino group, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-2} alkoxy group(s), or

R^7 and R^8 form together with the adjacent nitrogen atom an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or two nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 to 2 identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, a phenyl(C_{1-4} alkyl) group or a phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, wherein in case of the substituents listed the phenyl or phenoxy group is optionally substituted by a halo atom or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group or an amino group,

and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

6. A 8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/-

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benzodiazepine derivative as claimed in Claim 5, wherein

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9,

R^2 represents a nitro group or an amino group,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 means a chloro atom, a phenoxy group, or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

R^7 and R^8 represent, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guamyl group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group optionally substituted by a phenyl group, a dimethoxyphenyl group or a morpholino group, or

R^7 and R^8 form with the adjacent nitrogen atom an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or two nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by one or two identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a methoxyphenyl group, a fluorophenyl group, a benzyl group or a (methoxy-phenoxy)-(hydroxypropyl) group,

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

B1 cont

and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

7. A 8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/-benzodiazepine derivative as claimed in Claim 6, wherein

R^2 represents an amino group,

R^1, A and B are as defined in Claim 6,

and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

8. A process for the preparation of a 1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I, wherein R^1 and R^2 are as defined in Claim 1, and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof, characterized in that

a) for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, wherein R^1 represents a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein R stands for a halo atom or a pyridyl group, n has a value of 0, 1 or 2, m has a value of 0, 1 or 2, R^2 means a nitro group, A and B represent a hydrogen atom, the 7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-9H--1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine of the formula III

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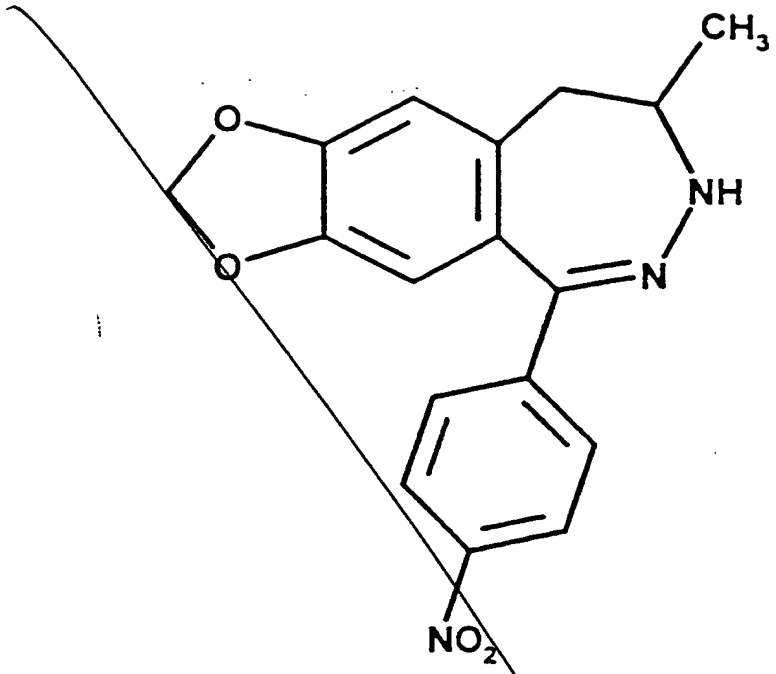
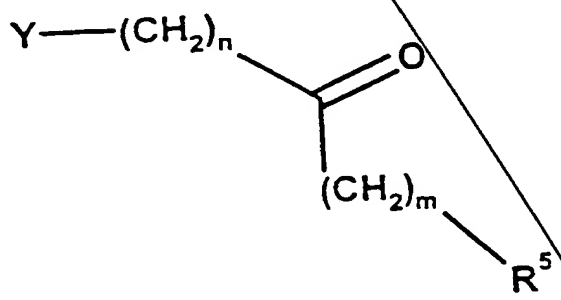


III

is reacted with a reagent of the formula VI



VI

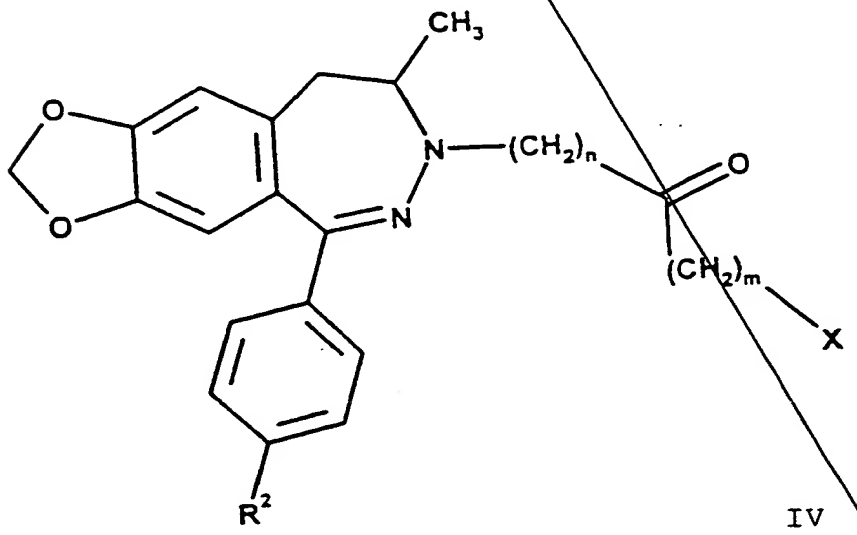
wherein Y represents a leaving group, R^5 is a halo atom or a pyridyl group; or

b) for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, wherein R^1 represents a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein R stands for an imidazolyl group, n has a value of 0, m has a value of 0, R^2 means a nitro group, A and B represent a

B1 Cont

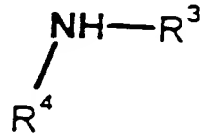
hydrogen atom, the 7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/-benzodiazepine of the formula III is reacted with 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole; or

c) for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, wherein R^1 represents a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein R stands for a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein R^3, R^4, n and m are as defined in connection with formula I, R^2 means a nitro group, A and B represent a hydrogen atom, the 7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-5-(4-nitrophenyl)--9H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine of the formula III is reacted with a reagent of the formula VI, wherein Y and R^5 represent, independently, a leaving group, n and m are as stated above, and the obtained benzodiazepine derivative of the formula IV



IV

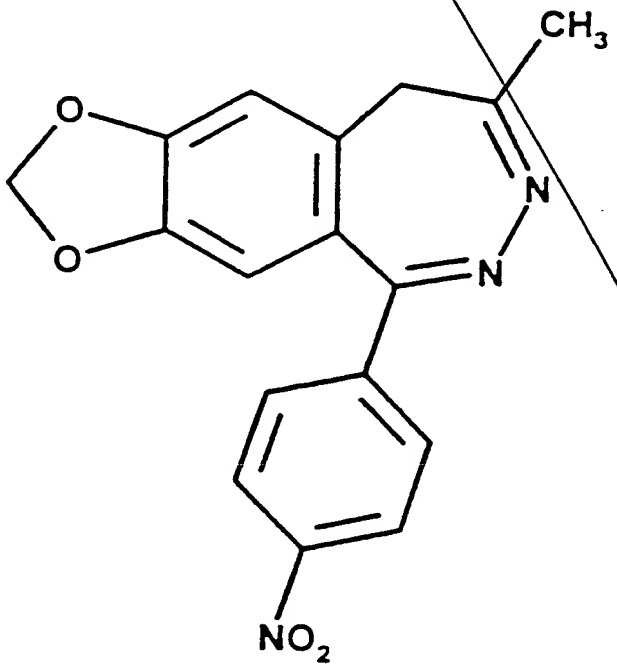
wherein X stands for a leaving group, n and m are as stated above, is reacted with an amine of the formula VII



VII

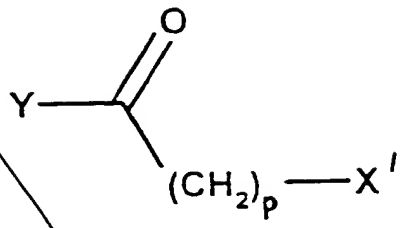
wherein R^3 and R^4 are as stated above; or

d) for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, wherein R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein R^6 represents a halo atom, a phenoxy group or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, p has a value of 0, 1 or 2, A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 means a nitro group, the 8-methyl--5-(4-nitrophenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/-benzodiazepine of the formula II



II

is reacted with an acylating agent of the formula IX



IX

wherein Y represents a leaving group, X' stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, p has a value of 0, 1 or 2;
or

e) for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, wherein R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein R^6 represents a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein R^7, R^8 and p are as defined in connection with the formula I, A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 means a nitro group, the 8-methyl-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo-/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine of the formula II is reacted with an acylating agent of the formula IX, wherein each of Y and X' represents, independently, a leaving group, p is as stated above, and the obtained acylated compound of the formula VIII

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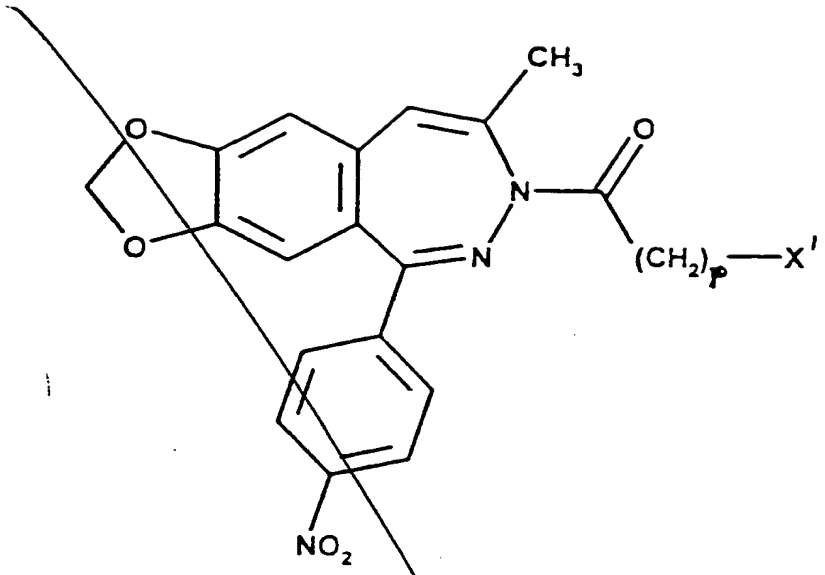


VIII

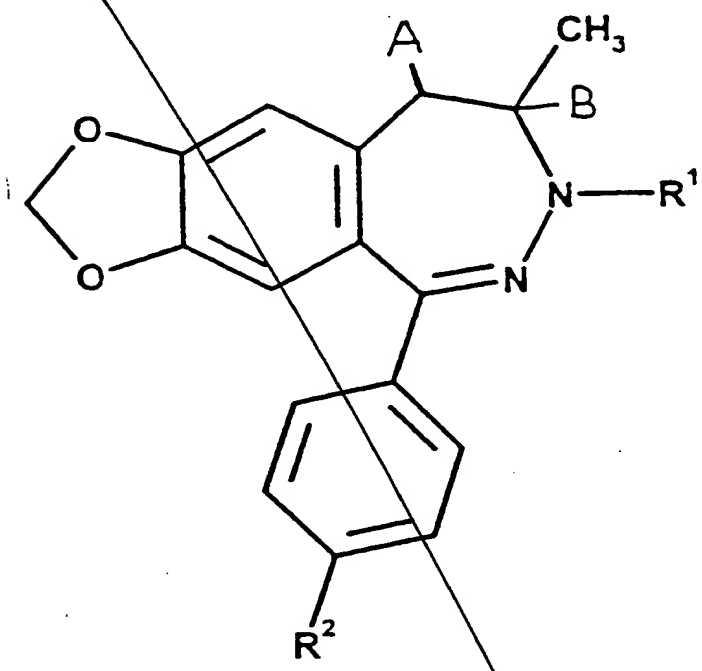
wherein X' and p are as defined above, is reacted with an amine of the formula HNR^7R^8, wherein R^7 and R^8 are as stated above;

and, if desired, an obtained compound of the formula I, wherein R^2 represents a nitro group, R^1, A and B are as defined in connection with the formula I, is transformed into a compound of the formula I, wherein R^2 stands for an amino group, by reduction;

and, if desired, an obtained compound of the formula I, wherein R^2 represents an amino group, R^1, A and B are as defined in connection with the formula I, is reacted with a C_{1-4} alkanecarboxylic acid or a reactive acylating derivative thereof;

and, if desired, an obtained base of the formula I is converted to a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt or liberated from the acid addition salt.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a 1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I



I

wherein

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein

R represents a halo atom, a pyridyl group or a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein

R^3 and R^4 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, an amino group, a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-4} alkyl group(s), a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is

B1 cont

optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising 1 to 3 nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by a phenyl group which latter is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s), wherein the substituent consists of a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^3 and R^4 form, with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally with a further nitrogen atom or an oxygen atom, a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members, being optionally substituted by a phenyl group that is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents, wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

n has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2, or

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9, and in this case

R^1 represents a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

B1 cont

R^7 and R^8 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^7 and R^8 form together with the adjacent nitrogen atom an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group which latter is optionally substituted, or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, a phenyl(C_{1-4} alkyl) group or a phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, wherein in case of the substituents listed the phenyl or phenoxy group is

optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a halo atom or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, and, in case of the phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, the alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 hydroxy group(s),

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group, an amino group or a (C_{1-4} alkanoyl)amino group,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient and one or more conventional carrier(s).

10. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 9 comprising a 1,3-dioxolo-/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I, wherein

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein

R represents a chloro atom, a pyridyl group or a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein

R^3 and R^4 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a cyclopropyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, an amino group, a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or two methyl group(s) or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated

heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising 1 to 3 nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and the heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by a phenyl group which latter is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 methoxy groups, or

R^3 and R^4 form, with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally with a further nitrogen atom or an oxygen atom, a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members, being optionally substituted by a phenyl group that is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 methoxy groups, n has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group or an amino group, or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

11. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 10 comprising a 1,3-dioxolo-/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I, wherein

R^3 and R^4 represent, independently, a hydrogen atom, a cyclopropyl group, a methoxy group, an amino group, a dimethylaminophenyl group or a C_{1-2} alkyl group which latter is substituted by a phenyl, morpholino or piperazinyl group, wherein the piperazinyl group is substituted by a methoxyphenyl

group, or

R^3 and R^4 form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally a further nitrogen atom or oxygen atom, an imidazolyl, morpholino or piperazinyl group, wherein the piperazinyl group is substituted by a methoxyphenyl group,

n has a value of 0 or 1,

m has a value of 0 or 1,

R^2 stands for a nitro group or an amino group,

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

12. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 11 comprising a 1,3-dioxolo-/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I, wherein

R^3 represents a hydrogen atom,

R^4 stands for a cyclopropyl group, a methoxy group or an amino group,

n has a value of 0,

m has a value of 0,

R^2 means an amino group,

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

13. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 9 comprising an 8-methyl--7H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I, wherein

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9,

R^1 represents a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

R^7 and R^8 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a morpholino group, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-2} alkoxy group(s), or

R^7 and R^8 form together with the adjacent nitrogen atom an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or two nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 to 2 identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, a phenyl(C_{1-4} alkyl) group or a phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, wherein in case of the substituents listed

B' cont

the phenyl or phenoxy group is optionally substituted by a halo atom or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group or an amino group,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

14. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 13 comprising an 8-methyl--7H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I, wherein

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9,

R^2 represents a nitro group or an amino group,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 means a chloro atom, a phenoxy group, or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

R^7 and R^8 represent, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guamyl group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group optionally substituted by a phenyl group, a dimethoxyphenyl group or a morpholino group, or

R^7 and R^8 form with the adjacent nitrogen atom an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or two nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom,

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and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by one or two identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a methoxyphenyl group, a fluorophenyl group, a benzyl group or a (methoxyphenoxy)-(hydroxypropyl) group,

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

15. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 14 comprising an 8-methyl--7H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I, wherein R^2 represents an amino group, R^1, A and B are as defined in Claim 6, or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

16. A method of treatment in which a patient suffering especially from epilepsy or a neurodegenerative disease or being in a state after stroke is treated with a non--toxic dose of a 1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I

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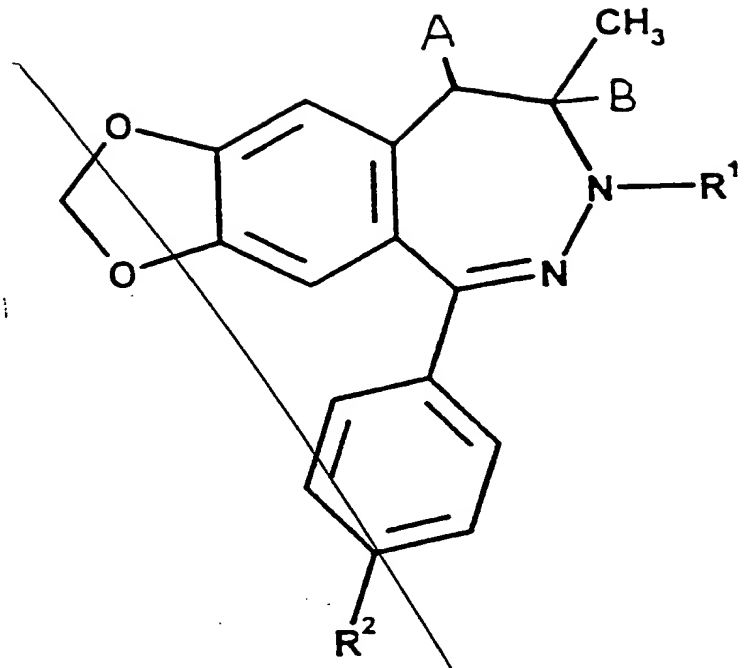

I

wherein

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein

R represents a halo atom, a pyridyl group or a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein

R^3 and R^4 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, an amino group, a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-4} alkyl group(s), a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and

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comprising 1 to 3 nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by a phenyl group which latter is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s), wherein the substituent consists of a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^3 and R^4 form, with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally with a further nitrogen atom or an oxygen atom, a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members, being optionally substituted by a phenyl group that is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents, wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

n has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2, or

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9, and in this case

R^1 represents a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

R^7 and R^8 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group or a C_{1-4} alkyl group

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which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^7 and R^8 form together with the adjacent nitrogen atom an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group which latter is optionally substituted, or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, a phenyl(C_{1-4} alkyl) group or a phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, wherein in case of the substituents listed the phenyl or phenoxy group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a halo

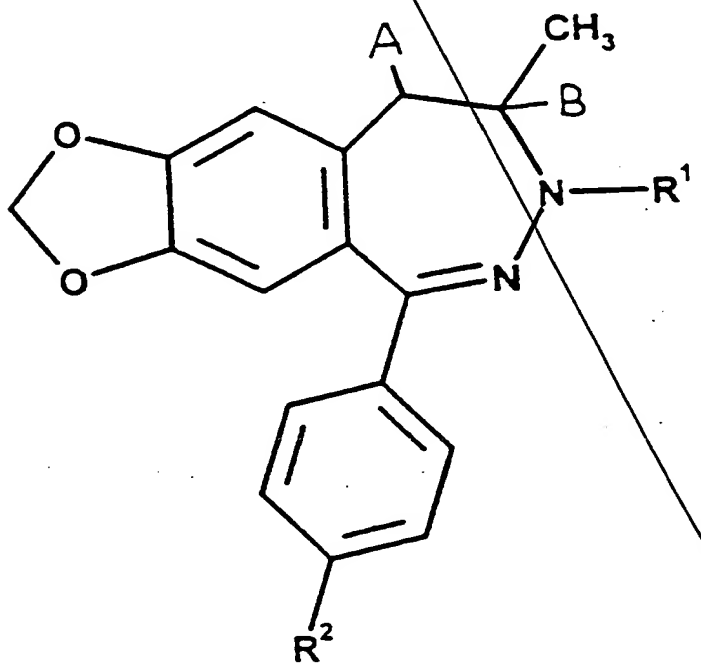
atom or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, and, in case of the phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, the alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 hydroxy group(s),

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group, an amino group or a (C_{1-4} alkanoyl)amino group,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof.

17. A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition suitable for the treatment of especially epilepsy, a neurodegenerative disease or a state after stroke, characterized in that a 1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h/-/2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I



I

wherein

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein

R represents a halo atom, a pyridyl group or a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein

R^3 and R^4 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, an amino group, a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-4} alkyl group(s), a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising 1 to 3 nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by a phenyl group which latter is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s), wherein the substituent consists of a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^3 and R^4 form, with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally with a further nitrogen atom or an oxygen atom, a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members, being optionally substituted by a phenyl group that

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is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents, wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

n has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2, or

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9, and in this case

R^1 represents a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

R^7 and R^8 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^7 and R^8 form together with the adjacent nitrogen atom an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group which latter is optionally substituted, or a saturated heterocyclic group

having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, a phenyl(C_{1-4} alkyl) group or a phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, wherein in case of the substituents listed the phenyl or phenoxy group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a halo atom or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, and, in case of the phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, the alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 hydroxy group(s),

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group, an amino group or a (C_{1-4} alkanoyl)amino group,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof, together with one or more conventional carrier(s), is converted to a pharmaceutical composition.